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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: RLS Group, Inc.

Serial No: 09/659,172

Filing Date: September 11, 2000

For: QUICK CONNECT HYDRANT NOZZLE FOR CONNECTING A FIRE HOSE TO A FIRE HYDRANT

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS (37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(c))—SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

attorney of record  
 the owner of the small business concern identified below:  
 an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concern identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN: RLS Group, Inc.

ADDRESS OF CONCERN: 985 Lake Jason Drive, White Lake, Michigan 48386

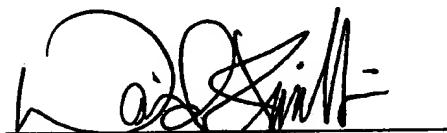
I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, 1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and 2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that exclusive rights under contract or law have been conveyed, to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, described in

- the specification filed herewith.
- this application.
- this patent.

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b)).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.



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Date: 19 July 02

Attorney Docket No: 19362-085599